

Message

From: Chernoff, Neil [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E2C8B0A1AA0347F7AB9245A7A5F28DE1-CHERNOFF, NEIL]
Sent: 8/23/2019 5:52:56 PM
To: Johnsie Lang [jrlang@ncsu.edu]
Subject: FW: ORD-032261 Lang et al.

Hi Johnsie,

As always, it was great having lunch with you! This email mentions “poor English and writing style” in the first paragraph. I’ll check with Hwa and make sure that this is what he meant by “poor grammar”. I didn’t read all of the many emails I was copied on from Ron today – I get annoyed when I do and there are other things of much greater importance. I’ll check through the other emails and forward them to you if you weren’t copied.

Neil

From: Hines, Ronald <Hines.Ronald@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 7:57 AM
To: Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>; Lindstrom, Andrew <Lindstrom.Andrew@epa.gov>; Chernoff, Neil <Chernoff.Neil@epa.gov>
Cc: Rogers, John M. <Rogers.John@epa.gov>; Lau, Chris <Lau.Christopher@epa.gov>; Buckley, Timothy <Buckley.Timothy@epa.gov>; Cascio, Wayne <Cascio.Wayne@epa.gov>; Watkins, Tim <Watkins.Tim@epa.gov>
Subject: ORD-032261 Lang et al.

Good morning,

As co-authors on the Lang et al. manuscript (ORD-032261), I have been disappointed you have not been more active in mentoring her in the writing of this paper. The first version that was routed to me in STICS was written so poorly that I refused to send it further for advance notification simply because of the poor English and writing style. I spent several hours editing that version of the manuscript.

The first version of the manuscript also made no mention of the NCSU study that measured PFESA-BP2 serum levels, although these data were mentioned in the fact sheet/impact statement regarding the impact of the current study. I had to point out that this was not appropriate – if she was going to include the NCSU data in the fact sheet/impact statement, these data also has to be discussed in the paper. The second version mentioned these data in the paper, but failed to include a comparison to the rat serum levels, despite this comparison being an extremely important point. Thus, the manuscript was sent back a second time for this correction.

I also had concerns regarding the third version of the manuscript, but given my relationship with Johnsie, I made the decision to go ahead and initiate the advance notification process. You have seen the consequences – Bruce Rodan also noted the issues in the Introduction and refused to forward the manuscript for the policy review. I spent several hours on Wednesday and Thursday working with Bruce, Tala Henry and Gino Scarano making sure the language in the Introduction was acceptable. Despite my strong recommendation, Johnsie has refused to cite the EPA PFAS Action Plan. You saw the analogy I provided this morning. Refusing to cite the EPA PFAS Action Plan is wrong for many reasons. Please work with her as mentors to make sure she understands this. Alternatively, as co-authors, and in fact, one of you being the senior author, insist that she follows through accordingly. As co-authors, each of you have “signed-off” on each version of this manuscript.

Ron Hines, PhD
Associate Director for Health
US EPA, NHEERL
109 T.W. Alexander Dr., MD 305-02
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
Tel: 919 541-5622
Cell: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)